



Working Paper #4: Community Vision, Goals and Policies

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DRAFT



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OVERVIEW

The Town of Buckeye General Plan is a statement of policy and an expression of the community's vision for the future. When completed, the plan will be a tool to help guide and shape the physical and socio-economic development of the planning area. The General Plan mission is to achieve a sustainable future for Buckeye. The General Plan will include:

- Community's statement of vision;
- 20-year plan for managing anticipated growth and development;
- Development goals and policies; and
- An implementation plan to realize the vision.

A number of public activities have been held to discuss issues and dreams for the future that have assisted in the drafting of the community vision. These events have included:

Four GPAC meetings
Community interviews (32 total)
Focus groups (8 total with 68 participants)
Visioning Charrette (5 events with over 200 participants)

A ***Vision Statement*** is defined as a broad statement of how the community views itself as it moves into the 21st century. A vision for the community is an ideal and unique image of the future. It incorporates a view of a future condition that would be better in some ways than what now exists. It is a dream rooted in reality. It is a vision that inspires, motivates, and transforms desire into action. A shared vision for the future is a powerful tool to motivate individuals and leaders to take control of the future.

Goals are broad expression of the type of community desired by the people who live and work in the Town of Buckeye planning area. The goals will guide the long-range development of the Town of Buckeye.

Policies are governing principles that directly implement the Town of Buckeye's goals and vision statement.

The following DRAFT Community Vision, Goals and Policies are intended to begin the discussion with the community and GPAC. These will evolve overtime during the general plan development process.



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"Jump into the middle of things, get your hands dirty, fall flat on your face, and then reach for the stars."

- Joan L. Curcio -

Our Vision: One Town, One Vision!

In the Year 2026, the Town of Buckeye will be recognized as a desirable place to live, work and play. It is a community that has successfully knitted together the many world-class and distinctly unique master-planned communities within which the majority of residents live. Residents of Buckeye are proud to call Buckeye their home. The community serves as a model for other Valley cities and fast-growing communities throughout the United States for its growth management and sustainability objectives as well as its success in the blending of mature neighborhoods with newer development patterns.

The Town of Buckeye has become the "Gateway to the Valley of the Sun" and as such welcomes visitors, new residents, and entrepreneurs. Buckeye has set the development quality standard high that all communities within the Valley strive to achieve. The Town is a "community of leaders" – locally, regionally, and statewide. Its citizens are empowered and its local leadership is in-step with staying true to the community vision.



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Goal All neighborhoods within Buckeye are connected and are an integral part of the Town of Buckeye.

Policies

1. Ensure that there are physical connections (e.g. trails, roadways, transit) between master planned communities and neighborhoods.
2. Decentralize public facilities such as police and libraries throughout the planning area to encourage resident interaction.
3. Develop regional parks and recreation facilities throughout the planning area that encourage community interaction.
4. Walls cannot totally enclose neighborhoods.
5. Protect existing and future residential neighborhoods from adjacent land uses that may adversely impact the public safety or area character.
6. Encourage pedestrian-oriented development.

Goal Instill a strong community ethic and passion for Buckeye.

Policies

1. Create a strong Buckeye Main Street that attracts community members from throughout the planning area because of its annual home town festivals and major arts and cultural amenities.
2. Encourage the development of schools within walking distance of neighborhoods that will strengthen the school's position as a neighborhood gathering place.
3. Further develop community groups such as the ministerial alliance, churches and other non-traditional organizations to actively engage in community development activities such as affordable housing, job training, and skill development.



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4. Create and implement a strong Buckeye brand that promotes quality and innovation.



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"You see things; and you say, "Why?" But I dream things that never were; and I say, "Why not?"

- George Bernard Shaw -

Our Vision: Economic Sustainability

In the Year 2026, the Town of Buckeye's economy is robust and a high percentage of local residents are able to work and live in close proximity. Buckeye is a major importer of employees to the quality jobs located within the community. The local economy is broad offering opportunities for large corporations as well as young entrepreneurs. The employment areas along the railroad, surrounding the airport, along I-10, and other major transportation corridors offer the full range of quality jobs from manufacturing to high technology. The Town of Buckeye has maintained areas and has created an atmosphere for future economic opportunities to occur over time because it recognizes that economic development is long-term and ever-changing.

Buckeye has partnered with major educational institutions and is acknowledged to be a "Center for Excellence" within a variety of specialized fields. It has become a major partner in the ever-expanding bio-sciences and technology industry. As a result of the Town's unique environment and forward-thinking, it has become a leader in promoting green building technology and renewable resources.

The Town of Buckeye has successfully transitioned from one that is dependent upon "new growth" revenues such as retail sales tax revenues and development fees, to a much more sustainable economy. The local government supports new business development that is compatible with the community's vision and facilitates business opportunities.



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Goal Buckeye will be recognized as the employment center of the Hassayampa Valley.

Policies

1. Locate quality employment-generating businesses that are defined as those that pay wages higher than the county average, provide full benefits for employees, offer continuing educational opportunities, provide advancement and career-type jobs, are environmentally safe and regional wealth generators.
2. Identify and protect employment corridors throughout the planning area to ensure that quality job opportunities can be realized regardless of current market trends.
3. Protect the railroad corridor from incompatible land uses and encourage the development of employment generating uses.
4. Protect the Buckeye Valley Airport from encroachment of incompatible land uses that will hinder current and future operations and expansion.
5. Maximize the economic development opportunities at the airport to attract quality employment.
6. Achieve and maintain the jobs per household at or above the Maricopa County average (Maricopa County was 1.26 jobs per household in 2000 Census).
7. All master-planned communities shall provide designated areas for employment-generating businesses (defined above) that will accommodate 50 percent of the desired jobs-to-housing ratio for Buckeye.

Goal Buckeye is known for its high performing educational system.

Policies

1. Invest in and support quality educational attainment.



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2. Work to ensure all students successfully complete high school.
3. Actively pursue the location of at least two higher educational institutions within the Buckeye planning area by 2016.
4. Ensure that schools will be available when the population warrants, not years after.
5. Increase the collaboration between the Town and school districts to ensure that local school facilities are being met and standards being exceeded.

Goal Growth and development must be long-term, financially sustainable.

Policies

1. Short- and long-term fiscal impacts of all developments will be evaluated as part of the decision-making process.
2. Short- and long-term fiscal impacts of all annexations will be evaluated as part of the decision-making process.
3. Ensure adequate public facilities and services will be provided to support growth by maintaining service and facility standards for public safety, streets, parks and recreation, water, and sewer.
4. Periodically review and update fee ordinances to ensure new development is paying for its overall impacts.
5. Develop a long range financial plan that takes into consideration lowering or loss of construction related revenues do to market conditions and/or community build-out.



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"Every animal leaves traces of what it was; man alone leaves traces of what he created."

- Jacob Bronowski -

Our Vision: Protecting the Unique Environment

In the Year 2026, the Town of Buckeye practices good stewardship of the management and relationship with its natural surroundings. From the White Tanks Mountains to the Hassayampa and Gila Rivers and to all the wash corridors that traverse the planning area, Buckeye has sensitively integrated the built environment with the natural. The planning area has preserved its diversity of native plants and animal species by accommodating wildlife corridors and natural connectivity across the landscape.

Buckeye understands the responsibility for careful management of the region's natural environment. It has been a leader in public/private partnerships to ensure connectivity, preserve environmentally-sensitive areas such as the mountain slopes and major washes, and implement "best practices" for ensuring a long-term water supply and quality. The planning area's air and water resources are vigorously protected, and noise and visual pollution minimized.

Through effective planning principles, Buckeye has reduced residents' reliance on the automobile by offering alternative modes. Effective connectivity within the planning area has resulted in a reduced need for pavement and more opportunities to enjoy nature.



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Goal Land use planning must guide the development of self-sustaining Villages throughout the planning area that encourage a live, work, educate, and play lifestyle within five miles of home.

Policies

1. Villages are defined as areas within a five mile radius that provide a range of housing types with higher densities at the core with densities decline away from the core.
2. Fifty percent of all trips generated shall stay within the Village.

Goal Land use patterns conserve and protect the planning area's natural resources.

Policies

1. Preserve hillsides from development above 15% slopes.
2. Landscaping must be low water use and comply with the adopted Town of Buckeye Native Plant Ordinance.
3. Protect ridge/crestline, steep-sloped areas as open space by the use of transfer or purchase of development rights, acquisition, donation, or other acceptable methods.
4. In environmentally-sensitive areas within the planning area, the Town will require the use of building envelopes in master-planned communities that encourage the provision of a natural buffer between buildings and protects wildlife corridors. Building envelopes designate the specific areas that can be disturbed in any way during or following construction. The area outside the building envelope must be maintained in its natural state.
5. Protect major wash corridors in their natural states.
6. Collaborate, encourage, and financially participate in intergovernmental partnerships to address and creatively plan for the future use of drainage ways and flood control facilities.



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7. Maintain the wildlife corridors from the mountains to the washes and rivers.
8. Protect the river corridors by ensuring adequate buffers and compatible development.
9. Disturbed land areas within developments must be re-vegetated in accordance with the Native Plant Ordinance.
10. Protect and preserve the Planning Area's most valuable historical and archaeological sites and structures.
11. Create a system of open spaces, parks, trails, and recreational facilities that contribute to the enhancement of the Planning Area's natural character while enhancing the community's quality of life.
12. All developments must have an assured water supply and adequate distribution system.
13. Ensure water usage within the Buckeye Planning Area is at or below the county-wide average of gallons per capita per day (gpcd). All developments must document how this policy will be met.
14. Protect the Planning Area's dark skies by implementing state-of-the-art technology for reducing light dissipation and glare.
15. As the community continues to grow, noise abatement must be addressed and mitigated.
16. Ensure regional air quality standards are met.

Goal Ensure a land use pattern that preserves the Planning Area's natural environment, livability, and sense of community.

Policies

1. Promote the orderly infill of vacant land and discourage "leap-frog" development making it difficult to provide efficient public services.



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2. Promote targeted redevelopment in areas such as the historic downtown area and surrounding neighborhoods to improve physical conditions and economic sustainability.
3. Strategically annex land within the Planning Area to ensure that development compatibility and adequate public facilities/services are provided.
4. Work closely with Arizona State Land Department to ensure that the state lands are planned and developed comprehensively in a manner that is compatible with the overall community vision.



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"We live in a moment of history where change is so speeded up that we begin to see the present only when it is already disappearing."

- R.D. Laing -

Our Vision: Improving Connectivity

In the Year 2026, the Town of Buckeye is proud of its balanced and comprehensive circulation system that moves people and goods. The system weaves together the entire Buckeye planning area as well as connecting the community externally within the region, state, nationally, and internationally. Buckeye has taken advantage of its ideal location as the "Crossroads" of a variety of transportation modes. Buckeye has maximized its location of being within six hours of major international ports in California and Mexico and along the CANAMEX trade corridor to promote economic development. The Buckeye Valley Airport has expanded and has become a major West Valley airport providing private passenger and cargo air service.

The highway network that dissects and surrounds Buckeye can efficiently move goods and residents through the area. The highway network is supported by an internal comprehensive system of parkways and major arterials as well as bus rapid and local transit, light and commuter rail, recreational and commuter bike facilities, connected pedestrian facilities, tourist trolleys in downtown areas, and special needs transportation.

Goal Develop a balanced transportation system.

Policies

1. Buckeye's development pattern will support a diverse range of travel modes (single occupant vehicle, multi-occupant auto, pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit) and the system is designed to effectively meet local mobility choices and needs.
2. Existing and future streets and developments must be designed to provide mobility and accessibility for all travel modes including the integration of transit and transit stops.
3. Implement designated multimodal corridors within the Planning Area that provide the framework to the transportation plan.
4. Implement connectivity between master planned communities and large commercial developments to ensure continuity in and the standards of the local street network.
5. Provide for inter-modal connectivity to ensure that interconnections between the various modes (e.g., pedestrian, autos, bus, and bicycle) can be made safely and efficiently.

Goal Expand the regional transportation network.

Policies

1. Continue to work with ADOT and MCDOT to ensure that development within the Buckeye Planning Area does not negatively impact the efficiency and functionality of the regional and statewide transportation network.
2. Ensure that the arterial street network is developed that supports the regional transportation network.
3. Implement access management system and standards on designated roadways.



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4. Ensure an enhanced public transportation system (transit, car pool and park-and-ride lots, bus rapid transit, and light rail) that provides connections within the Planning Area as well as throughout the region.
5. Support the development of the CANAMEX corridor within the Buckeye Planning Area.

Goal Provide for and maintain economic opportunities through transportation system network development.

Policies

1. Work cooperatively with the state and rail service providers to develop the rail freight and possible passenger service through the Buckeye Planning Area.
2. Improve the rail-roadway at-grade crossings.
3. Protect the Buckeye Municipal Airport from incompatible land uses to ensure its current and long-term viability as air service demands grow.